

Net neutrality is one of the few and most important laws that is placed on the internet. Because it requires that service providers treat every site equally, there is no concern that the American People will have information or goods denied to them.

Internet speed is already determined by how much one pays, and these massive ISPs such as Verizon and Comcast want to charge even more for the most basic internet access. Because of the way their networks are set up, these giants have essentially created a monopoly within neighborhoods and towns. It is not so simple to switch service providers because the residents have no options but the ones given to them by giant companies. It is unfair to assume that traditional capitalism would sort this out on its own. Smaller cable and ISPs are nearly nonexistent or swallowed up so there is no competition. By reversing the FCC's regulations, it is ISPs such as Verizon and Comcast to become even larger and monopolize everywhere, which would prevent even the idea of small businesses trying to provide fair and accessible service.

Not only are small businesses at risk, but the average homeowner as well. Because reversing the FCC's regulations will allow companies to essentially block their customers, who are already paying for their services, from any website of their choosing. A Verizon customer could find that they cannot access any sites owned by their competitor Comcast. If a Comcast customer wanted to purchase something online, then it is a real possibility that they would only be able to view goods whose companies pay Comcast extra to give priority over goods provided by smaller, independent companies.

The most worrisome aspect of the restriction of content is that the companies would have free range to restrict any access to websites that include information that they do not approve of. Restriction of certain websites and databases due to the opinions of a committee is what China does to strangle information or filter it as to prevent dissent. It goes against our rights as Americans. That our information could potentially be filtered so that the American People only know partial truths or are left in ignorance is appalling.

The FCC chairman, a former cable lobbyist, is attempting to boost the market by taking away the impartial treatment toward websites and information on the web, which he assumes will encourage investment. However, the monopolistic status of Verizon and Comcast block the very idea of capitalism, which in turn makes the point of investment completely moot. Small startups and even Google are being sued left and right to prevent competition. It is unrealistic to assume that small companies can afford and compete with these giant moguls who have an army of lawyers and billions of dollars behind them. Ajit Pai assumes that this will provide "fast internet lanes" for those who pay extra, but the fact of the matter is that these large companies, who already do this, will make this so-called "fast lane" about the same as the average internet speed and slow it down for anyone else who can't fork over extra.

ISPs are not currently considered common carriers thanks to a massive lobbying campaign and lots of money, but because they now provide so much of the information and

data that it is unreasonable that they continue as they are. Their customers expect it, and these basic expectations could be denied.

So few actual people, as opposed to businesses, are in favor of rolling back the FCC regulations that really it is amazing that this rollback can even be considered. The congressmen and women are supposed to be carrying out the will of those they represent, not the will of giant companies that pay them off. The question remains whether they would allow monopolies to crush competition and artificially restrict content, or listen to the people that voted for them and stop the rollback.